

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05533 101654Z

45

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 073559

R 101400Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5560

S E C R E T JIDDA 5533

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARMS PURCHASES

REF: (A) JIDDA 5459, (B) STATE 192020, (C) JIDDA 5327,
(D) STATE 190466, (E) STATE 190450, (F) STATE 196842

1. PRINCE SAUD COMMENTED ON QUESTION OF SIDEWINDERS TO ME
YESTERDAY IN THE LIGHT OF SECRETARY'S ASSURANCES (REFS B AND E)
WHICH I HAD GIVEN UNDER SECRETARY MANSOURI AUGUST 4 TO PASS TO MINDEF
SULTAN TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS EVERY
INTENTION OF FULFILLING THE TRANSACTION FOR TWO THOUSAND MISSILES.

2. PRINCE SAUD MADE RATHER LENGTHY STATEMENT IN WHICH HE
EXPRESSED REGRET ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF ELEMENTS IN THE UNITED
STATES WHO WISHED TO PREVENT SAUDI ARABIA FROM RECEIVING
EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR HER DEFENSE. SAUDI ARABIA REPRESENTS
A THREAT TO NO ONE. SHE IS NOT INTERSTED IN ACQUIRING MILITARY
EQUIPMENT MERELY TO POSSESS IT. SHE MUST PROVIDE FOR HER
DEFENSE AND THAT OF NEARBY COUNTRIES WHO NEED THE SAME KIND OF
ASSISTANCE, AND THAT IS ALL SHE IS DOING. SAUDI ARABIA IS
ENDEAVORING TO LEAD THE ARAB STATES TOWARD PROCURING THEIR
SUPPLIES FROM WESTERN SOURCES. HERE HE CITED THE CASE OF THE
AIR DEFENSE MISSILE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT PUBLIC COMMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 05533 101654Z

CONCERNING POSSIBLE PURCHASE BY SAG OF F-14 AND F-15 AIRCRAFT,

THE MINISTER RECALLED THAT WHEN THE SECRETARY WAS IN TAIF IN SEPTEMBER OF LAST YEAR HE HAD ASSURED KING KHALID AND PRINCE FAHD THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD ENSURE THAT SAUDI ARABIAN DEFENSE NEEDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES. I SAID THE SECRETARY'S ASSURANCES GIVEN TO PRINCE SULTAN THROUGH MANSOURI AUGUST 4 MADE IT CLEAR THAT NOTHING HAD CHANGED IN THAT RESPECT. I WAS ALSO IN A POSITION TO PRESENT HIM WITH THE TEXT OF MR. CLEMENTS' STATEMENTS ON F-14'S AND 15'S WHICH WAS A REASONED STATEMENT IN NO WAY INIMICAL TO SAUDI DEFENSE INTERESTS. I HANDED HIM RESUME, ADDING THAT PRESS MATERIAL ARRIVING IN SAUDI ARABIA WAS OFTEN THIRDHAND AND THAT DISTORTIONS HAD CREPT IN. SAUD AGREED MR. CLEMENTS IS A GOOD FRIEND OF SAUDI ARABIA AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT SAY OR IMPLY ANYTHING DAMAGING TO OUR RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID MATTER NEEDED NO FURTHER DISCUSSION.

4. WITH REGARD TO OUR INTENTION TO APPROACH CONGRESS ON THE SIDEWINDERS BY SUBMITTING LOA FOR ONE THOUSAND MISSILES NOW AND FOR ONE THOUSAND AFTER THE ELECTION, HE SHOWED SOME UNEASINESS LEST THE SECOND HALF OF THE ORDER ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES LATER ON. I INFORMED HIM WE HAD CAREFULLY STUDIED THE SITUATION AND HAD MADE THE JUDGMENT THAT THIS WAS THE BEST WAY TO GO ABOUT IT, ADDING THE PERSONAL COMMENT THAT WITH SOME OF THE ORDER HAVING ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED IT WAS UNLIKELY TO BE INTERRUPTED LATER, AND THAT IN ANY CASE I WOULD URGE HIM TO RELY ON OUR JUDGMENT WHICH I HAD PASSED TO PRINCE SULTAN (REFS B AND E). HE ACCEPTED THIS AND HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO HAVE ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON THE MATTER. THEREFORE, I BELIEVE (AND MANSOURI CONFIRMS) YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THIS EXCHANGE WITH SAUDI AS EXPRESSION OF HIS VIEWS AS REQUESTED IN REFS B AND E AND THAT THERE IS NO SAUDI OBJECTION TO OUR PROCEEDING ALONG LINES MENTIONED.

PORTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY SALES, MISSILES, SIDEWINDERS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA05533
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850071-2588, N760006-0234
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760869/aaaaciog.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 JIDDA 5459, 76 STATE 192020, 76 JIDDA 5327, 76 STATE 190466, 76 STATE 190450, 76 STATE 196842
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI ARMS PURCHASES
TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, US, (SAUD, PRINCE)
To: STATE SS SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006